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BERRIEN COUNTY JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Therapist

DEPARTMENT: Juvenile Center

GENERAL SUMMARY

Under the supervision of the Clinical and Treatment Services Manager, the Therapist is responsible for providing mental health and counseling services to youth in the Residential Treatment and Family Services Program (RTFSP) and Detention Program. The services include, but are not limited to, suicide assessment, crisis intervention, treatment planning and individual, group and family therapy. The Therapist will also be responsible for providing training and feedback/direction to Youth Specialists regarding mental health and behavioral management issues as well as assisting Youth Specialists in designing and implementing groups that can be conducted by the Youth Specialists and other program staff. This position is responsible for maintaining accurate case files and all required reports regarding mental health services. This position is required to participate in Team Meetings, staffings, case reviews, Court Hearings, etc., as assigned. Duties are carried out in accordance with the Courts' statutory purpose as well as Court, County, and Juvenile Center Policies and Procedures. The Therapist position is a member of the General Employees Unit of AFSCME, Council 25, Local 2757.

TYPICAL TASKS (An employee in this class may be assigned any or all of the following tasks. These tasks are illustrative only and do not include all of the tasks which may be assigned.)

1. Provides mental health screening, suicide assessment, counseling and related services including individual, family and group therapy, crisis intervention and treatment planning.
2. Conducts parental training sessions for parents utilizing multimedia sources and discussions as assigned.
3. Responds to emergency calls and provides crisis intervention services to assigned youth and families when requested.
4. Communicates information concerning parent and resident progress to the Court, Probation Officer and facility staff.
5. Prepares and maintains records and reports pertaining to mental health services.
6. Works with the Reintegration and Family Services Coordinator, Case Managers and Youth Specialists to develop and implement appropriate interventions and treatment.
7. Assists the Probation Officer and/or Reintegration and Family Services Coordinator in developing appropriate plan for return to the community.
8. Works collaboratively with community providers and support agencies in the community.

9. Assists in the development and supervision of BSW/MSW interns as assigned.
10. Serves as a member of the Critical Incident Response and De-briefing Team.
11. Provides direction, instruction and monitoring of staff in the implementation of mental health related treatment strategies.
12. Evaluates youth progress on Treatment Plan Reviews every (30) days or as directed and submits a written report to the Court and Juvenile Center Administration.
13. Serves as a member of the Juvenile Center Team and participates in weekly Team Meetings.
14. Assists staff in formulating comprehensive treatment service plans for residents, which include strategies for appropriate interventions.
15. Provides mental health related consultation for Center staff in regards to residents and their families.
16. Participates in meetings case reviews and Court Hearings as required.
17. Participates in all assigned in-service training.
18. Provides training on mental health related topics to Juvenile Center staff as assigned.
19. Implements and coordinates mental health services consistent with all applicable professional standards and codes of ethics.
20. Ensures and documents the achievement of outcome measures for mental health services as part of the program evaluation process.
21. Works weekends, holidays, evenings or flexible hours as assigned in the fulfillment of the duties of Therapist.
22. Completes special projects and assignments or performs other related duties as requested by Juvenile Center Supervisors, Director, Assistant Director, Clinical and Treatment Services Manager, Family Division Administrator or Judges.

MINIMUM EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

Master's Degree in Social Work, Psychology, Counseling or related mental health discipline from an accredited institution with at least one-year experience working with adolescents.

LICENSE/CERTIFICATION:

Licensed by the Michigan Department of Commerce or Professional Regulation in Mental health discipline.

DESIRABLE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Knowledge and experience in individual, group and family therapy with adolescents. Cognitive behavior, behavioral, social ecological, and

family systems theory and application as well as child/adolescent development and social skills assessment and intervention. Knowledge of juvenile justice and Residential/Detention programs.

SPECIAL EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS:

Employees of the Berrien County Trial Court Family Division must submit to fingerprints and may be subjected to criminal record, character, reputation, mental health and moral character screening and clearance before employment. Employees must possess a valid Vehicle Operator's License, pass a pre-employment physical, and may be required to submit to a drug screening test as a condition of employment. Appropriate speech and dress, as well as a high level of personal professional conduct for work in a Court setting is required.

This description is intended to describe the type and level of work being performed by a person assigned to this job. It is not an exhaustive list of all duties and responsibilities required by a person so classified.

Approved: _____ Date _____
 Chief Trial Court Judge

Berrien County
Date: 08/07/06
Status: Non-Exempt
Grade: 9